

INVESTIGATION REPORT TO-DAY

Byrd Committee Will Almost Certainly Report This Morning.

FIERY DEBATES IN BOTH HOUSES

Senate Discusses Two-Cent Rate
Bill and Supplementary Ap-
propriations—The Lower
House Kills Powell
Bill to Prevent
Foot-Ball.

The report of the special joint committee which investigated the Corporation Commission will almost certainly make its report at this morning's session of the General Assembly.

This announcement will enlist great interest, for nothing has occurred in Richmond in recent years which has excited popular concern to a degree as this investigation, and its consequent findings which have been more closely guarded than the most precious treasure.

It was thought quite likely that the report would be ready for announcement last night, but the document was not quite completed and will not be signed until this morning.

What it sets forth, whether of findings or of recommendations; whether of censure or of commendation, no one outside of the committee knows, and these gentlemen have backed themselves up against a wall of propriety and discretion, and

Appropriation Bill.
As the session draws rapidly to a close the two houses of the Legislature are working overtime, holding three long sessions daily.

The matter of perhaps the greatest interest in either branch yesterday was the rejection by the House of the conference report on the general appropriation bill and the request of the body for

new committee of conference. The committee will be named to-day and another conference held at once. It was thought by some that the turning down of the report was a move to force an extra session, but this is perhaps not the case. There was some sharp cross-firing over the motion to reject, which was made by Mr. Churchman. The fight on this side

The House was in a scrappy humor at day. The day fight came over a

The House engrossed the bill relieving medical doctors from the payment of license taxes, and refused to advance the

Another was over the supplementary appropriation bill, already passed by the

House. It was debated, and went over as a special order until to-day.

The two houses will hold three sessions to-day.

THE SENATE.

Will Investigate Price of School Books. The Bill Amending the

The earlier hour of opening found comparatively few senators in their seats, but members began to come in rapidly and the body was soon at work on the calendar. Several important late committee reports were received. The House joint resolution calling for a commission to investigate the price of school books in Virginia was taken up and unanimously adopted.

Several members were passed by temporarily and the Machen bill to regulate the lending of money on household and kitchen furniture and so forth, came

up on its passage, the motion of Mr. Sale, of Norfolk, to reconsider the engrossment being rejected after that senator had stated that he would postpone his objection until the final vote. Declaring that he was heartily in sympathy with the object of the bill, which is to prevent the lending of money at usurious rates of interest, but in his opinion the measure instead of accomplishing the

measure instead of accomplishing the worthy purpose, actually went to the other extreme and legalized an interest rate of as much as 72 per cent. In support of this argument he declared that the lobby of users who come to Richmond to oppose the bill when it is first introduced had laid down their arms and silently stolen away as soon as they learned the provisions of the proposed new act. Mr. Maehen explained the bill and though disagreeing with Mr. Sale

secured unanimous consent to make two or three amendments, meeting all objections. The bill was then unanimously passed.

the supplementary appropriation bill, the bill appropriating certain sums for Capt. Tol furniture, and the bill appropriating \$10,000 to the State Board of Agriculture for the encouragement of Immigration. At the request of the Finance Committee these appropriation bills were fixed as a special order for 12:30 o'clock. An effort to get up the Churchman two-cent rate bill out of its order met with much opposition, certain senators indicating that while they might eventually favor the

bill, they objected to any suspension of rules giving one measure an advantage over another. Others, including Judge Tavenner, of Shenandoah; Mr. Fulton, of Warren; Major Rison, of Pittsylvania; and Mr. St. Clair, of Giles, declared that the rate bill was one of the very greatest importance to the people of Virginia; that to leave it upon the calendar meant its

death, and that the Senate must decide if it would allow the measure to meet its defeat in this way. By a close vote the Senate decided to take the bill up out of its order. The motion required twenty-seven votes, and received twenty-six of the roll call. The clerk was reading the names when two senators entered, but

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